

## **COVID-19 Update: Saturday, 6.6.20**

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## **COVID-19 Testing Continues in Winooski 6/8/20 – 6/12/20**

The Vermont Department of Health, in partnership with Community Health Centers of Burlington, continues to offer COVID-19 testing in Winooski:

O'Brien Community Center ([32 Malletts Bay Ave](#))

- [Mon. 6/8/20 / 9 AM - 2:45 PM](#)
- [Tues. 6/9/20 / 9 AM - 2:45 PM](#)
- [Wed. 6/10/20 / 9 AM - 3 PM](#)
- [Fri. 6/12/20 - 10 AM - 2:45 PM](#)

Winooski Senior Center ([123 Barlow Street](#))

- [Thurs. 6/11/20 / 9 AM - 2:45 PM](#)

This is for members of the community of Winooski. Testing is free and available to anyone. Children under the age of 12 months cannot be tested. These clinics are part of the State of Vermont's efforts to ramp up testing and prevent the spread of COVID-19. The test will tell you if you have a current infection. It is not a serology/antibody test, which means it will not tell you if you were infected in the past.

To learn more and register, visit <https://humanresources.vermont.gov/winooski> \*

Getting Tested for COVID-19

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Understanding Your COVID-19 Test Results

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Contact Tracing: What it is and Why it is Important

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\*The Vermont Department of Health is aware of an email error in the registration system regarding signing up multiple people at once (in reference to "attendee emails" - the system will only allow that email to be added once per event). If you need assistance with this error, registrants can Call 2-1-1 or 802 828 2828 for registration assistance. Registrants can use a fake attendee email for the other family members.



### **Governor Scott's Winooski Update**

"As many of you already heard, we're now considering the situation in Winooski an "outbreak" with a few dozen cases of COVID-19 over the last week. Our epidemiology team has been on top of this situation, using our enhanced tracing and testing to keep this contained.

I know this will worry some Vermonters, but the important thing to understand is this is EXACTLY what we've been preparing for over the last several weeks.

Stay Home/Stay Safe was not only about slowing spread and saving lives, it also allowed us to build up our testing and tracing capacity, so we have new and better tools to deal with this virus. Having them means we don't have to take the same measures we did in March and April.

The fact is, because of these tools, we can and are boxing in this outbreak, which means what wouldn't have been possible two months ago, is a reality today. So, in close consultation with our epidemiology team, we feel it's still safe to continue slowly turning the spigot.

I again want to assure you that experts at the Department of Health are comfortable moving forward with methodical reopenings, because if they weren't, we wouldn't be doing it.

The fact is, outbreaks are going to continue, but that's exactly why we've built up our capacity to box them in, so we can restart our economy, while also keeping people safe.

We'll continue to work our way through this, and learn from it, so that we can further strengthen our response -- which is exactly what we need to do -- to bridge the gap to a time when there's a vaccine."

- Governor Phil Scott

### **Vermont Department of Health Winooski Update**

At a press conference on Friday with City of Winooski officials and State Epidemiologist Patsy Kelso, Health Commissioner Mark Levine, MD, told residents he understands that news of an outbreak can cause both fear and uncertainty. He also expressed thanks and appreciation to the community, and all Vermonters for working together to get through this public health challenge. To date, 34 Winooski residents have tested positive. An outbreak means a number of cases in a community are connected to each other in one way or another.

"First, I want you to know that this could happen anywhere," he said. "That's the way viruses like COVID-19 work, and it can be very difficult for people to take all the steps necessary to prevent the spread of this disease."

Although Vermont has fared much better than other places, a COVID-19 outbreak like this is not unexpected. Dr. Levine reviewed steps taken since the Health Department first learned of the cluster of cases, including working with the city, our local health office and Community Health Centers of Burlington to offer testing at the O'Brien Community Center every day this week. Specimens were collected from 165 people at the Winooski location on Thursday. Additional specimen collection continued today.

Testing will be offered every day next week as well. Having as many people tested as possible is important -- and we encourage residents to get the test, whether or not you think you might have COVID-19.



"The only way to get to stop the outbreak is to do it together," he said. "Every single person is needed to help keep this disease from spreading. That means continuing to practice good public health measures such as wearing face coverings, limiting close interactions, and lots of hand washing."

Sign up for an appointment to get tested for COVID-19 at the O'Brien Community Center, 32 Mallets Bay Avenue in Winooski at: <https://humanresources.vermont.gov/winooski>, or call 2-1-1.

- [Download this update](#)
- [Watch the archived press conference](#)

